

September 2022

Assistant Professor Bann-Seng Tan is looking to fill one fixed term Research Assistant position.

Start-date and duration:

The Research Assistant should start in **October 2022** (negotiable). The position is available for **up to 1.5 years, non-renewable**. Subject to performance review, and it last till the end of the Monsoon semester in December 2023.

For Part-time, the expected workload is 20 hours per week.
For Full-time, the expected workload is 40 hours per week.
The salary is competitive but contingent on grant funding.

What I am looking for:

The work will involve quantitative data. This means the candidate must have the requisite quantitative skills. Compulsory skills include: R and/or Stata, text analysis (see [here](#) and [here](#)), Python, GIS coding, web scraping, and econometric analysis.

Candidates with Computer or Data Science or Economics background are preferred. Geographers (with GIS expertise) may also be considered. The position is mainly meant for undergraduate level students in Ashoka University. I understand students will have their routine courseload. Ashoka graduates, who are free to work full-time may also apply. I may consider applicants with higher qualifications and from other universities.

Position profile:

The position is associated with Dr. Tan's project on the political economy of natural disasters. He uses established theories in political science to explain how autocrats might react to natural disasters. To bypass the authoritarian state control over their local media, he relies instead on foreign news reports collected from the search engine Lexis Nexis. The Ashoka Library provides a subscription to that search engine.

The research assistant aids Dr Tan in:

- Webscrapping from relevant news media;
- Creating and maintaining a dataset;
- Conducting auxiliary regression analysis; and
- Maintaining a website for the project.

Application materials:

Interested applicants should send the following:

- a CV (with 2-3 referees and their contact details).
- a cover letter specifying your exact quantitative skills (or highlight the methods course you took).
- non-Ashoka applicants should include a copy of your degrees and official certified transcripts.
- (optional) a website where the candidate showcases his programming skills.
- (optional) you may also get your referees to send two letters of recommendations separately. I am fine if you use Interfolio to send the LORs.

All materials should be in pdfs. Send all application materials in a single email to Bannseng.tan@ashoka.edu.in . The subject headline of the email must use this format “Research Assistant Application: Insert your name here”.

Selection process:

To receive full consideration, please apply by **September 30, 2022**.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interviews. After the initial screening, there may be a second round of technical interviews. The selection process shall continue until the position is filled.

Questions regarding the position and the process should be addressed via email to Bannseng.tan@ashoka.edu.in